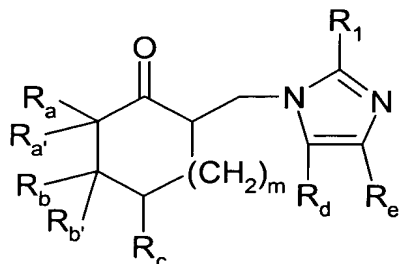


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for preparing an imidazolyl compound corresponding to formula (I)



wherein:

$R_a$  and  $R_b$  are each individually selected from the group consisting of (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxyalkyl, and optionally substituted aryl and heteroaryl; or

$R_a$  and  $R_b$  together form a further homocyclic or heterocyclic system comprising one or more rings;

$R_{a'}$  and  $R_{b'}$  are each hydrogen or together form a carbon-carbon double bond, said carbon-carbon double bond optionally being part of an aromatic system;

$R_c$  is hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxyalkyl or halogen;

$R_d$  is hydrogen or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;

$R_e$  is hydrogen or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;

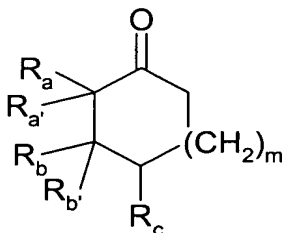
$m$  is 1 or 2; and

$R_1$  is hydrogen or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl;

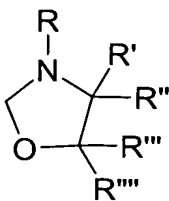
or an acid addition salt thereof;

said method comprising:

- a) reacting a compound corresponding to formula (II)



wherein  $R_a$ ,  $R_{a'}$ ,  $R_b$  and  $R_{b'}$  have the meanings defined above;  
with a compound corresponding to formula (III)



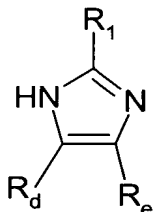
wherein:

$R$  is a hydrogen, a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl optionally substituted with a hydroxyl group, or an optionally substituted aryl group, and

$R'$ ,  $R''$ ,  $R'''$  and  $R''''$  are each individually a hydrogen or a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl group;

and then

b) reacting a product of step a) with a compound corresponding to formula (IV)



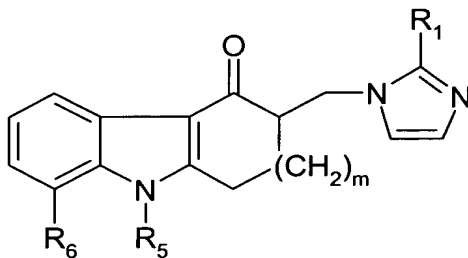
wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_d$  and  $R_e$  have the meanings defined above;

and

c) optionally reacting a product of step b) with an acid to obtain an acid addition salt.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein  $R_c$  is hydrogen or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, and  $R_1$  is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

3. A method according to claim 1, for preparing an imidazolyl compound corresponding to the formula (Ia)



wherein:

m is 1 or 2;

R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl;

R<sub>5</sub> is (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, and

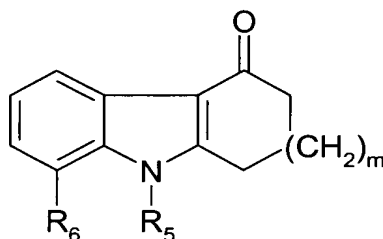
R<sub>6</sub> is hydrogen or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, or

R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> together with the intermediate atoms form a 5, 6, or 7 member ring, optionally substituted with one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxyalkyl and (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkoxy;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof;

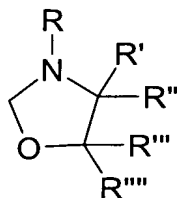
said method comprising:

a) reacting a compound corresponding to the formula (IIa)



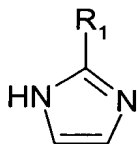
wherein R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub> and m have the meanings defined above;

with a compound corresponding to the formula (III)



and then

b) reacting a product of a) with a compound corresponding to the formula (IVa)



wherein R1 has the meaning given above.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein R is a 2-hydroxyethyl group, and R', R'', R''' and R'''' are each hydrogen.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein m=1, and R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> together with the intermediate atoms form a 6-member ring.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein m=1; R<sub>5</sub> is methyl, and R<sub>6</sub> is hydrogen.

7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out in an alcoholic solvent.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the alcoholic solvent is 1-butanol.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out in a mixture of an alcoholic solvent and an aromatic hydrocarbon

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein said mixture is a mixture of methanol and chlorobenzene.